Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA02) released the following statement today regarding the passing of John Hope Franklin:

"I was deeply saddened to hear of John Hope Franklin's passing. Mr. Franklin was truly a champion of the Civil Rights Movement, helping to end segregation in public schools and weaving black history into American history in his celebrated work, 'From Slavery to Freedom.' As an African-American Member of the United States Congress, I stand on the shoulders of civil rights heroes like Mr. Franklin, and I acknowledge that I would not be where I am today were it not for his courageous efforts.

"The nation has truly lost a distinguished scholar, historian and icon. However, John Hope Franklin's legacy will endure through the millions of lives he touched."